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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/573,637	03/28/2006	Toshitaka Araga	WAKAB83.002APC	9022
20995 7590 01/15/2008 KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP 2040 MAIN STREET FOURTEENTH FLOOR IRVINE, CA 92614			EXAMINER BLANKENSHIP, GREGORY A	
			ART UNIT 3612	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 01/15/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcartee@kmob.com
eOAPilot@kmob.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/573,637

Applicant(s)

ARAGA ET AL.

Examiner

Greg Blankenship

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/24/2007.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2004090829 in view of Fero et al. (6,959,956).

JP 2004090829 discloses a sun visor (10) for a vehicle having a shading plate core (13) supported by a support shaft (12) in a passenger cabin, as shown in Figure 1. The core (13) has a plurality of micropores, as shown in Figure 2C. In reference to claims 2 and 10, the core (13) comprises a superposed assembly of a face side plate and a reverse side plate which have substantially equal contours. The micropores are in both the face side plate and the reverse side plate, as shown in Figure 2C. In reference to claims 3 and 11, the micropores of the face side plate are disposed out of alignment with the micropores of the reverse side plate when viewed in a direction perpendicular to a surface of the core since Figure 2C shows the micropores are located at different positions on the two sides. However, the claimed diameter of the micropores and the open area ratio is not disclosed.

Fero et al. teach a sun visor (30) having micropores (40,42) with a radius of between 0.5-10 mm.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the micropores of JP 2004090829 with a diameter between 1-5 mm, as taught

by Fero et al., resulting in an open area ratio in the range of 2% to 30% to improve the acoustic properties of the sun visor.

3. Claims 4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of JP 2004090829 and Fero et al. (6,959,956), in view of Fero et al. (6,959,956).

JP 2004090829, as modified, does not disclose the hollow space between the face side plate and the reverse side plate.

Fero et al. teach a core member that has a face side plate spaced from a reverse side plate, as shown in Figure 2.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the core member of JP 2004 0090829 such that the face side plate and reverse side plate are spaced apart at their intermediate section to form a hollow space, as taught by Fero et al., to provide space for housing accessories.

4. Claims 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of references, as applied to claims 4 and 12, in view of Aymerich et al. (5,454,616).

JP20040090829, as twice modified, does not disclose a sound absorbing material in the hollow section.

Aymerich et al. teaches place a sound absorbing material in the hollow section between the face side plate and the reverse side plate, as shown in Figure 6.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fill the hollow section of the sun visor of JP20040090829, as twice modified, with a sound absorbing material, as taught by Aymerich to improve the sound absorbing characteristics of the sun visor.

5. Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of references, as applied to claims 5 and 13, Fukuda (6,504,939).

JP 20040090829, as thrice modified, do not disclose the use of felt.

Fukuda teaches the use of felt as a sound absorbing material.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute felt for the sound absorbing material of JP20040090829, as thrice modified, as taught by Fukuda, to provide an effective sound absorbing material that is readily available for easy replacement of the sound absorbing material if it becomes damaged.

6. Claims 7, 8, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of JP 2004090829 in view of Fero et al. (6,959,956), in view of Fero et al. (6,959,956).

JP 2004090829, as modified, discloses the cover having an air permeability of at least 2.0 cc/cm²/sec.

Fero et al. teach a cover (34) having an air permeability of greater than 6.0 cc/cm²/sec of at least 200 ft³/ft²/sec.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the cover of JP 2004090829, as modified, of a material having an air permeability greater than 6.0 cc/cm²/sec, as taught by Fero et al., to facilitate passage of sound waves.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Blankenship whose telephone number is 571-272-6656. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 571-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

gab
January 7, 2008



1/8/2008

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